

**Loudoun County Public Schools
Special Education Advisory Committee
Wednesday November 11, 2020, 7:15 p.m.**

Executive Committee:

Chair - Sharon Tropsf

Immediate Past Chair – Dr. Carol Williams-Nickelson

Vice Chair - Planning Shehnaz Khan

Vice Chair - Membership Heidi Bunkua

Vice Chair - Communications Craig Metz

Secretary - Kathryn Rosenbrook

Liaisons:

Dr. Patricia Nelson, Director of Special Education

Beth Barts, School Board

Member Attendance: A quorum of SEAC voting members was confirmed with Vice Chair of Membership with 11 out of 16 members present.

Business Meeting Agenda November 4, 2020 (Rescheduled to November 11, 2020)

- I. Welcome and Call to Order, Sharon Tropsf, SEAC Chair 7:15

Explained the role of SEAC, Regulations, and SEAC Leadership.

- I. Public Comment-None

- II. Reports and Updates

- A. SEAC Chair.

Annual Report.

Condensed report with top issues from the SEAC survey. Survey was broken down by grade level and disability category.

- a. SEAC Survey areas of concern: equity, transparency, transition, accessibility to instructional materials, inclusive practices, and communication.
- b. Restraint and seclusion are still areas of concern. Students with disabilities are the only students that are secluded. Most students secluded are under the age of nine. Believe that numbers are higher than what is being reported.
- c. Positive Outcomes: Secondary level schools are fully staffed with a Unified Mental Health team. The elementary schools have a shared Mental Health team.
- d. Reading Instruction and Early Identification remain a concern. Since 2015 SEAC has supported Structured Literacy as a Tier 1 intervention to provide equitable access to literacy for all students.
- e. Increase in satisfaction with special education services from 2018-2019.

SEAC Bylaws.

A thorough review has begun, a first pass was completed by the SEAC Executive Committee and will be presented to the membership for review and comments in December. Goal is to have them approved and published in early 2021.

PTA/PTO Representatives.

Letters have been sent to all schools. Currently, have received 27 reps from the schools. Final edits have been made to the training video and that will be coming out soon for our new PTA/PTA Representative and SEAC Members.

Current Issues.

Hybrid and distance learning models are restricting IEP Teams from offering a continuum of services. Requested additional information on meeting the individual needs of students with IEPs.

Equity Committee: SEAC Representative is Craig Metz, Vice Chair of Communications.

Special Education Task Force.

Formed to address issues that are facing our special education community. The task force has met 4 times with significant support from the office of special education. The task for is focusing on the accessibility of current distance learning and services for students who are unable to access distance learning due the lack of a continuum of services. Formal report is in progress.

- B. Executive Committee Next meeting November 23, 2020 @ 6:30. Open to the public.
- C. Subcommittees Formation. SEAC has three functioning committees. Committees will need to prioritize the areas to focus on based on the survey. Instructions for establishing meeting times and requirements have been sent to each SEAC Member.
- D. Parent Resource Services. New website design with easy to find information. Trainings will be a mix of livestream and pre-recorded. All flyers and workshops are posted on the website. Sign up for the Keep in Touch option offered from Parent Resource Services.
- E. School Board Liaison-Beth Barts. Hybrid phase for grades 3-5 and Seniors attending AOS. Only focusing on the data available we have now. January 21, 2021 LCPS will be in phase 4. Secondary principals will be holding town hall meetings to help parents make an educated choice. Classroom layouts may be adjusted to accommodate choices made by parents instead of a lottery system. Concurrent means teacher is working virtually and, in the hybrid, (in-person). Buses may have different seating than originally anticipated. Also, mentioned that Dr. Williams has accepted another position in Texas.
- F. Pupil Services and the Office of Special Education.

Dr. Asia Jones, Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services. Thank you for your time and support for helping our students. A special thanks to our parents and caregivers during these difficult times. Parents will be receiving a survey regarding services being provided. A meeting is being scheduled with VDOE to review using their IEP process systems. Students that were in stage 1 return to school are being offered up to four days of instruction. CAST programs are operating on a four-day week currently. The Office of Special Education is monitoring and providing feedback on the concurrent trainings that are being developed.

Dr. Patricia Nelson, Director of Special Education. Thank you to all who are working with our students. We are all working to support our students and families, but we must remember our teachers. Teachers are being asked to take on more roles to deliver instruction. LCPS has multi-tiered systems of support that helps our efforts to support the whole child. Mental health awareness training is on-going for staff to be able to support the students. Please remember to visit the Pupil Services webpage. Thank you for sharing the survey results and my team will continue to improve in the areas of concern. Have a blessed and safe holiday.

III. New Business:

- A. Nominating Committee. The current SEAC Executive Committee was presented as the proposed slate of officers for the 2020-2021 school year. Nominations were accepted from the floor. Hearing none, a motion was made and seconded to approve the presented slate of officers. A roll call vote approved the motion as presented.
- B. Special Education Task Force. A draft document in in the process of being completed. It will be posted for feedback. After edits are made then it will be presented to the School Board to address issues that are facing our special education community. The needs are unique and varied just as our children. Lack of continuum of services and accessibility are significantly impacting our special education students. The line getting blurred by ADA and IDEA. Outline solutions to provide to the school board. Key areas of focus are improving accessibility, transforming and individualizing distance learning access, and services for students who are unable to access distance learning.

IV. Adjourn. 8:33 p.m.